



UNITED STATES SENATOR • SOUTH DAKOTA
TIM JOHNSON
N E W S R E L E A S E



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, May 21, 2004

Contact: Julianne Fisher, 202-224-1638
Noah Pinegar, 202-224-4281

MEDIA ADVISORY
*****Please Note Change*****

Service Medals to be Presented to Distinguished Veterans
Military Academy Nominees to Interview Veterans as Part of Veterans History Project

Washington, DC—Due to unexpected flight delays, U.S. Senator Tim Johnson (D-SD) will unfortunately be unable to make his scheduled medals presentation in Rapid City today.

Colonel Theodore (Ted) La Plante, Mission Support Group Commander at Ellsworth Air Force Base, will stand in Johnson's place to present the medals to our distinguished veterans.

Following the medals presentation, the veterans will be interviewed by students Johnson nominated to the nation's service academies, as part of the Veterans History Project. Their stories will be added to the national collection, housed at the Library of Congress.

Johnson has been a leading advocate of the Veterans History Project and helped introduce the state to the program earlier this year. His goal is to ensure that the stories of South Dakota's outstanding veterans are preserved as part of the national collection.

"South Dakotans have a long tradition of patriotism and service to country. These medals are long overdue. I am sorry I could not be there in person today, but wish to thank these veterans for their sacrifices and honorable service," **said Johnson**. "I am also so proud of our fine service academy appointees that have joined us today for the Veterans History Project. They are among the best of the best. The Veterans History Project is an opportunity to preserve the unique stories of outstanding veterans and honor the sacrifice made by military personnel and their families. I am sure that both the veterans and nominees will gain a great deal from this experience and our nation will now have their memories preserved."

WHO: Colonel Theodore (Ted) La Plante, Mission Support Group Commander at Ellsworth Air Force Base, in place of U.S. Senator Tim Johnson

WHAT: Presents Medals to Distinguished Veterans, Brings Veterans Together with Service Academy Nominees as part of the Veterans History Project

WHEN: Friday, May 21, 2004
3:15 pm—4:15 pm MDT

WHERE: Senator Johnson's Rapid City Office
405 E. Omaha St.
Rapid City, SD

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Veterans to be Honored

Willard Church, a 2nd Lieutenant, served in the US Army Air Corps from March 6, 1943-December 20, 1945, in North Africa, Sardinia, Germany, and France. He was captured and held prisoner at Stalug Luft I, near Barth, Germany. He was released as a POW on May 1, 1945. Church is receiving the POW Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with two bronze service stars, the World War II Victory Medal, and the Honorable Service lapel button for World War II.

Clifford Nelson served in the Army as a Technical Sergeant from November 18, 1948 to December 3, 1951. Nelson served in Taegue, Korea, and was wounded February 5, 1951. Nelson is receiving the Purple Heart, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal with 2 bronze service stars, the Combat Infantryman Badge, and the United Nations Service Medal.

Emerson Leroy Quick Bear served in the US Marines as a heavy truck driver and rifleman from 8/5/1940-11/4/1946. Quick Bear was serving at *Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941*. Quick Bear is receiving the awards posthumously. His son, Duane Quick Bear will accept the following medals for his father: the *Pearl Harbor* Commemorative Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, the American Campaign Medal, and the Honorable Service Lapel pin.

Junior James served as a cook, 3rd class, in the Navy from May 19, 1943 to January 23, 1948. James also served as a Staff Sergeant in the Air Force from January 24, 1948 to October 1, 1963. He spent twenty years and four months in Guadalcanal, Japan, Iceland, and Korea. James will received the following medals for his service in the Air Force: the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal with 1 Silver Oak Leaf Cluster, the Longevity Service Award Ribbon with 4 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Korean War Medal.

Lyle Cline served as an Airman 1st Class in the Air Force from March 7, 1949 to November 3, 1952, and served in Korea. He is receiving the Army of Occupation Medal—Japan Clasp, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal with 1 service star, the United Nations Service Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal for the Air Force.

William Hagenlock served as a Corporal in the US Marine Corp from October 28, 1943 to February, 28, 1946. He served in the Pacific theater during World War II. Hagenlock's medals are being awarded posthumously. His wife, Alice, will receive the World War II Victory Medal, the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, the Navy Occupation Services Medal and the Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon on his behalf.

The following students will interview the veterans as part of the Veterans History Project:

William Allsup of Lead High School. Allsup is a nominee to West Point.

Aaron Lessin of Stevens High School in Rapid City. Lessin is a nominee to the Air Force Academy.

Jessica Grunt of Stevens High School. Grunt is a nominee to the Air Force Academy.

Michael Cavanaugh of Stevens High School. Cavanaugh is a nominee to the Air Force Academy.

Michael Heisinger of Stevens High School. Heisinger is a nominee to the Merchant Marines.

The Veterans History Project encompasses veterans of World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. It includes all participants in those wars - men and women, civilian and military. The project documents the contributions of civilian volunteers, support staff, and war industry workers as well as the experiences of military personnel from all ranks and all branches of service.

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